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## GAS SUPPLY IMPROVES

GAS MAIN CLEANED, INSTALLATIONS ADDED -- Moskovskiy Pol'shevik, No 178, 30 Jul 49

The Saratov-Moscow Gas Main, which was recently 1 years old, annually exceeds its plan for conveying highly calorific natural gas from the banks of the Volga to Moscow.

At present, the pipe line, stretching from the Yelshansk Gas Fields to Moscow, is undergoing summer inspection of compressor stations, gas and water condensers, and other machinery.

One large section of the pipe line has been cleaned with a large metal brush (yarak) weighing about 20 kilograms, made especially for that purpose. Cleaning was done by a new method in which the methane was not drawn out of the section of pipe where the brush passed. This made it possible to save a large amount of fuel.

On 2 July, the brush was inserted into the gas pipe line at the Kolyasl River in Saratov Oblast. Under the strong gas pressure it moved toward Moscow and recently reached one of the populated stations in Moscow Oblast. Listening posts were set up at control points to keep track of its position. In several places it came out through branch pipes and brought out much black dust. As a result of the cleaning, there will be an even, steady gas pressure in the pipes.

At the time the gas main was laid in trenches, it was covered with a layer of asphalt. This insulation protects it from the action of acids and salts dissolved in ground water.. The pipe is only slightly covered with rust. It is, however, still in danger of stray electric currents which slowly corrode the metal so that honeycombs and blisters appear on it.

To lengthen the life of the pipe line, so-called cathode protection will be used. Electric current which absorbs and neutralizes stray currents will flow in wires along the pipe. Cathode "wells" are being installed for measuring the electric field and transmission of current. Sources of electric power will be fired power plants, internal combustion engines, and wind-driven power plants to be built along the pipe line.

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Experiments are continuing on the experimental section of the gas main outside Moscow. Important results of findings were discussed in July at a meeting of the presidium of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Scientific workers of the Permafrost Institute working with specialists of "Glavneftegaz" (Main Administration of Petroleum and Gas Enterprises) have improved the technology of laying pipe in winter in frozen ground.

Saratov methane enters the city network through two distribution stations. Soon there will be a demand for new installations designed to receive gas from two plants under construction.

Preparations to install two other distributing stations are going on. These stations and two stations already in operation will be connected by a high pressure gas pipe line about 60 kilometers long. Upon entering this dual link, fuel gases are mixed. The fact is that the gases are of different chemical composition, and in order to obtain a good, sootless flame of uniform calorific capacity they must be thoroughly mixed.

First, the gases will pass through controlling, regulating points which maintain uniform pressure. The mixing process will take place in huge horizontal tanks.

Construction of the distributing stations will make possible considerably increased gas supply to the city.

GAS FACILITIES INCREASE IN UKRAINE -- Krasnaya Zvezda, No 191, 14 Aug 49

Installation of gas facilities in the Ukraine is progressing steadily. The number of apartments supplied with gas has doubled since 1940. Many thousand apartments in Kiev and other cities are to be supplied with gas this year.

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